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1. (currently amended) In a database system wherein a group of users have access to create and edit a plurality of documents stored in the database, a system for periodically clearing the database of stored document replication conflicts comprising:

means for designating one document in each pair of a plurality of at least one stored pairs of replication conflicting documents as the main document and the other of said pair as the secondary document;

means for storing all documents involved in each of ~~said at least one~~ plurality of said pairs of replication conflicting documents;

means for defining a prioritized sequence of predetermined attribute values to be applied to distinguish between the stored documents in each of said pairs of replication conflicting documents; and

means for automatically periodically applying at predetermined time intervals said sequence of predetermined attribute values to each of said pairs of said plurality of replication conflicting documents to resolve each conflict by eliminating ~~all but one~~ of the documents in ~~said conflict a pair of conflicting documents~~ for insufficient value of a predetermined attribute in said applied sequence of attributes.

Claims 2-4 are cancelled.

5. (currently amended) The database system of claim 3 1 wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be applied is that only one of said pair of conflicting documents has been modified after one of said pair has been designated as the main document to thereby eliminate said unmodified document of said pair.

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6. (currently amended) The database system of claim 3 1 wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be applied is that only one of said pair of conflicting documents has associated entered comments to thereby eliminate the document of said pair without associated comments.

7. (currently amended) The database system of claim 3 1 wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be applied is that only one of said pair of conflicting documents has an associated date to thereby eliminate the document of said pair without an associated date.

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8. (currently amended) In a method of creating and editing a plurality of documents by a group of users having access to said documents stored in a database, a method for periodically clearing the database of stored document replication conflicts comprising:

designating one document ~~or~~ in each of a plurality of said stored pairs of replication conflicting documents as the main document and the other of said pair as the secondary document;

storing all documents involved in each of said plurality of pairs of replication conflicting documents;

defining a prioritized sequence of predetermined attribute values to be applied to distinguish between the stored documents in each of said pairs of replication conflicting documents; and

periodically automatically applying said sequence of predetermined attribute values at predetermined time intervals to each of said pairs of said plurality of replication conflicting documents to resolve each conflict by eliminating ~~all but~~ one of the documents in said conflict for insufficient value of a predetermined attribute in said applied sequence of attributes.

Claims 9-11 (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 8 ~~±0~~ wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be applied is that only one of said pair of conflicting documents has been modified after one of said pair has been designated as the main document to thereby eliminate said unmodified document of said pair.

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13. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 or 8 wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be applied is that associated comments have been entered for only one of said pair of conflicting documents to thereby eliminate the document of said pair for without associated entered comments.
14. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 or 8 wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be applied is that only one of said pair of conflicting documents has an associated date to thereby eliminate the document of said pair without an associated date.

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15. (currently amended) A computer program having code recorded on a computer readable medium for periodically clearing stored document replication conflicts in a database system wherein a group of users have access to create and edit a plurality of documents stored in said database, said program comprising:

means for designating one document in each pair of a plurality of at least one-stored pairs of replication conflicting documents as the main document and the other of said pair as the secondary document;

means for storing all documents involved in each of ~~said at least one~~ plurality of said pairs of replication conflicting documents;

means for defining a prioritized sequence of predetermined attribute values to be applied to distinguish between the stored documents in each of said pairs of replication conflicting documents; and

means for automatically periodically applying at predetermined time intervals said sequence of predetermined attribute values to each of said pairs of said plurality of replication conflicting documents to resolve each conflict by eliminating all but one of the documents in said conflict a pair of conflicting documents for insufficient value of a predetermined attribute in said applied sequence of attributes.

Claims 16-18 (cancelled).

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19. (currently amended) The computer program of claim 17 15 wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be applied is that only one of said pair of documents has been modified after one of said pair has been designated as the main document to thereby eliminate said unmodified document of said pair.
20. (currently amended) The computer program of claim 17 15 wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be applied is that only one of said pair of conflicting documents has associated entered comments to thereby eliminate the document of said pair without associated comments.
21. (currently amended) The computer program of claim 17 15 wherein one of said sequence of attribute values to be applied is that only one of said pair of conflicting documents has an associated date to thereby eliminate the document of said pair without an associated date.

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